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Government  
Publications

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The **Move**  
...TOWARDS  
A **LIVEABLE**  
METROPOLIS



A Discussion Paper in the Metropolitan Plan Review Series

The Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department

## A NEW PHILOSOPHY

### THE LIVEABLE METROPOLIS

The problems confronting Metropolitan Toronto are real and immediate. Changing values in society have influenced decision-makers, many of whom recognize the need to adopt a new approach to government policy and program development. The Liveable Metropolis report sets out some of the challenges involved in achieving a higher quality of life within a large metropolis such as Metropolitan Toronto. The "liveability" concept balances three important goals: a healthy environment, social well-being and economic vitality.

## RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES

The Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department discussion paper, *Towards a Liveable Metropolis*, recommends that government decision-makers and the public should be considered trustees of the natural environment and managers of community resources. This shared responsibility — or stewardship — is necessary to meet Metropolitan Toronto's social, environmental and economic needs. By placing more housing and employment opportunities along main

## SUMMARY OF INITIATIVES

It is proposed that the following initiatives be undertaken:

#### *INITIATIVE 1:*

**Assess all Metropolitan Corporation practices and procedures in terms of their cumulative impact upon the environment.**

#### *INITIATIVE 2:*

**Develop a strategy to ensure that Corporate practices and procedures protect and enhance the environment by reducing pollution and conserving resources.**

#### *INITIATIVE 3:*

**Develop accounting and budgetary mechanisms for integrating environmental and social costs and benefits into Corporate fiscal management systems.**

#### *INITIATIVE 4:*

**Ensure a consistent approach for assessing the environmental, social and economic implications of Metropolitan actions by such means as the development of Corporate guidelines.**

#### *INITIATIVE 5:*

**Develop a profile of the current state of the environment within Metropolitan Toronto and monitor changes by updating the profile every three years.**

#### *INITIATIVE 6:*

**Develop environmental, social and economic indicators to evaluate the impact of Metropolitan policies and programs and to monitor change.**

#### *INITIATIVE 7:*

**Identify targets and develop implementation strategies for all Metropolitan departments, boards and agencies.**

#### *INITIATIVE 8:*

**Actively pursue the implementation of appropriate remedial actions including those proposed through the MTRAP process.**

#### *INITIATIVE 9:*

**The new Metropolitan Official Plan should include policies which reflect the following objectives:**

1. **Identify in the Metropolitan Official Plan those natural areas which are of regional significance and/or where natural processes and life forms should be protected, enhanced or restored.**
2. **Optimize densities in the existing urban area in order to make the most efficient use of public infrastructure and to conserve natural resources.**

3. Implement planning policies that more efficiently balance the location of the labour force with employment opportunities.
4. Maximize the use of alternatives to the automobile, such as public transit, commuter rail, cycling and walking.
5. Promote a sense of community, create opportunities for social interaction, support a range of community services, facilities and programs, and recognize and appreciate the value gained from diversity.
6. Protect heritage features and enhance urban aesthetics, encouraging high standards of urban and building design.
7. Maintain a diverse range of options to meet future needs and react to unforeseen events.

**INITIATIVE 10:**

Integrate environmental, social and economic considerations into a revised development review process.

**INITIATIVE 11:**

Develop a methodology for incorporating criteria which assess cumulative impacts into the development review process.

**INITIATIVE 12:**

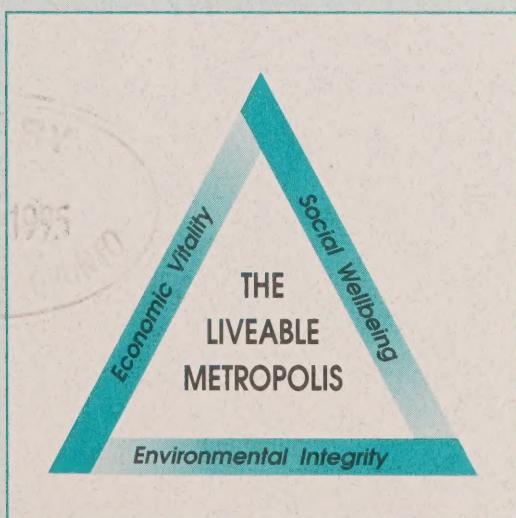
Request the Province of Ontario to more fully integrate economic, environmental and social impact evaluations for all major developments.

**INITIATIVE 14:**

Develop appropriate performance standards for inclusion in the development review process and develop guidelines to assist in the implementation of these standards.

**INITIATIVE 15:**

Develop an effective and pragmatic strategy for public education and information which builds on the initiatives of other levels of government but is specific to the needs of Metropolitan Toronto.



streets, for example, better use could be made of the services that Metro provides, such as transit and piped services. This would enable people to live closer to their work and relieve some of the pressure upon the region's natural areas.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

The discussion paper recommends 15 initiatives designed to allow Metropolitan Toronto to become a more liveable metropolis. The challenge lies in achieving significant changes in our society's customary practices and attitudes regarding the natural and urban environment. These initiatives provide a starting point for such change.

## YOUR INPUT

A series of workshops will be held in the coming months to focus discussion on the initiatives contained within *Towards a Liveable Metropolis*. Ideas and comments from these sessions will be incorporated into the Metropolitan Toronto Official Plan Review process. Members of the public and representatives from business, industry and interest groups are encouraged to obtain the discussion paper and participate in the workshops.

**General inquiries, written submissions and ordering requests should be directed to:**

Towards a Liveable Metropolis  
Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department  
Policy Development Division  
11th Floor, East Tower, Toronto City Hall  
(416) 392-8101

I would like to order \_\_\_\_ copies of the discussion paper, Towards a Liveable Metropolis. Please find enclosed a cheque/ money order in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 + 7% GST per unit), payable to the Metropolitan Treasurer. Orders should be sent to the above address. Copies may also be picked up in person.

I would like to be put on the Official Plan mailing list.

I would like to participate in a workshop.

I would like the following issues to be explored during this process:.

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Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

**For more information about the workshops, please contact:**

Susan Smallwood (416) 392-8806

(same address as above)

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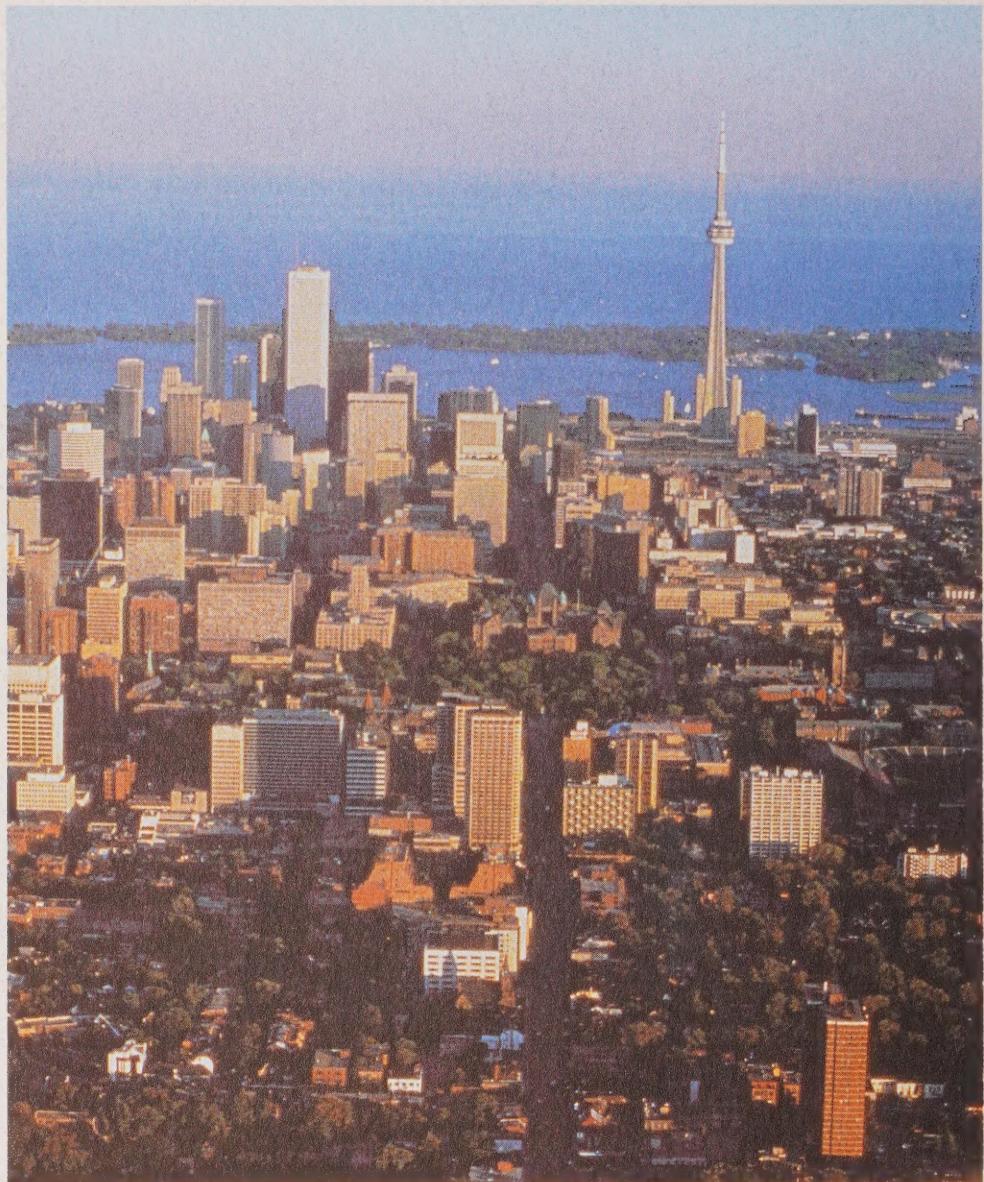
To: Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department  
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Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N1

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# THE BIG PICTURE

## A NEW METROPOLITAN TORONTO OFFICIAL PLAN

*Towards a Liveable Metropolis* is a discussion paper in the Metropolitan Plan Review Series and introduces the reader to the concept of "liveability"—the dominant theme in the new Metropolitan Official Plan. The report will be of interest to those who would like more information on the philosophical framework of the new Official Plan. The new plan will help determine the future shape of Metropolitan Toronto and will address important concerns reflecting the attitudes and values of a changing population. Metropolitan Toronto is committed to developing a new Official Plan that is the product of extensive public participation and which reflects a collective vision for a better quality of life for all Metropolitan Toronto residents.



The Move ...TOWARDS  
A LIVEABLE  
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### The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto

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